

HARRY W. KRUMM.

MAY 17, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRADLEY, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2648.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2648) for the relief of Harry W. Krumm, postmaster at Columbus, Ohio, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The report on the case made by Post-Office Inspectors John I. Games and S. W. Hardy was submitted to the committee and completely substantiates the facts set out in the letters mentioned. The three letters which appear in the report from Mr. Tilson, from the Committee on Claims of the House, in this case are referred to as part hereof and fully explain the facts and circumstances of the case. The said letters are as follows:

UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE,  
Columbus, Ohio, January 26, 1910.

MY DEAR SIR: I am again presenting to you for your kind consideration the matter of my reimbursement by an act of Congress for the loss sustained by me incident to the defalcation of William C. Wallace, former cashier at the Columbus post-office.

Mr. Wallace entered the service by political appointment in 1898, as assistant postmaster, and in the year 1902 he was made cashier. In 1905, by an order issued by the President of the United States, cashiers at post-offices were given classified status, and under this order Mr. Wallace became a civil-service employee. In the fall of 1905 Mr. Wallace resigned his position as cashier at the Columbus post-office to devote his time to his campaign for election as auditor of Franklin County.

When I became postmaster, May 1, 1906, Mr. F. M. Leonard, who had succeeded Mr. Wallace as cashier, was made assistant postmaster, and Mr. Wallace, who had been out of the service less than one year, made application for reinstatement to his old position, he having failed of election. Having performed during his previous seven years of service all the duties of his office in a most efficient manner, his application for reinstatement to take effect May 5, 1906, was forwarded to the department at Washington, and by them duly approved and returned. Thereupon bond in the sum of \$10,000, which was the amount of bond then required to cover the services of cashier at this office, was submitted to the department and due acknowledgment of its acceptance made.

During the month of October, 1906, inasmuch as this office had not been checked up for several years, I deemed an inspection advisable, and accordingly made a request of the department to that effect, but my request was not complied with. Again, in March, 1907, I made a similar request, and in compliance therewith inspectors appeared at this office on May 13, 1907. While the inspection was in progress, Mr. Wallace left the office, ostensibly for lunch, but failed to return. I later received a telephone message from him at his home, stating that he was "in bad" and desired to see me privately. I refused to consent to this, and after informing the inspectors of the conversation I suggested that they accompany me to his residence. Upon nearing his home we heard the report of a pistol, and entering we

found that he had committed suicide. Inspectors Games and Hardy immediately proceeded to check Mr. Wallace's accounts, and the next day it was found that his shortage amounted to \$12,225.14.

After the amount of the shortage had been definitely determined the bonding company paid the department \$10,000, and I was requested by the Auditor for the Post-Office Department to remit that part of the shortage in excess of the amount of the bond, namely, \$2,225.14.

Although it was apparent that this defalcation occurred through no carelessness or lack of vigilance on my part and could not possibly have been averted by me, yet I made no effort to evade compliance with the auditor's request, and promptly paid the amount demanded by him. In view of the fact that, as previously stated, I had repeatedly requested that an inspection of this office be made, which inspection was not made until the date of Mr. Wallace's suicide, and, further, that all due precautions required by law or otherwise were taken by me to insure the safety of the funds at this office, I earnestly petition that the proper steps be taken to bring about the refund of the amount paid by me out of my personal funds, namely, \$2,225.14.

Trusting that my request may receive favorable consideration, I beg to remain,

Very truly,

H. W. KRUMM, *Postmaster.*

Hon. E. L. TAYLOR, JR.,  
*Congressman, Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 27, 1910.*

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am inclosing you a letter written me by Mr. Harry W. Krumm, postmaster at Columbus, Ohio, in which he sets forth the facts concerning the defalcation of William C. Wallace, former cashier at the Columbus post-office. Mr. Krumm in his statement does not mention one or two facts, which I merely call to your attention that you may report accordingly. Wallace, as cashier, had entire charge of the funds of the post-office. The postmaster had nothing whatever to do with the receipts and deposits of the moneys coming into the Columbus post-office. Therefore all that Mr. Krumm could do was when he thought that the office should be checked up to ask the Government to send inspectors, and, as set forth in his statement, this he urged shortly after his induction into that office and only succeeded in getting it in March, 1907. The postmaster has no access to the books of the cashier—in fact, he even is paid his salary by the cashier—and to compel him to make restitution for the theft of money by one over whose accounts he had no control is unquestionably unjust, and for that reason I am urging that he be reimbursed. You will find that a bill similar to the one now before you, copy of which I inclose, was introduced in the last Congress, and that it was sent to the Post-Office Department, which department returned a report recommending that the money be refunded to Mr. Krumm. This record the clerk of your committee agreed to have with the papers in this case, and if he has not done so he informs me that he can get the same from the files of the last Congress.

I thank you in advance for the courtesy you have shown me in taking a special interest in this bill for relief, and trust that it will be favorably reported on Monday.

Very truly, yours,

E. L. TAYLOR, JR.

Hon. JOHN Q. TILSON,  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, D. C., February 5, 1909.*

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN: In reply to your communication of the 2d instant relative to bill (H. R. 26590) entitled "A bill for the relief of Harry W. Krumm, postmaster at Columbus, Ohio," I beg to state that there is no evidence that the loss was occasioned by any negligence on the part of the postmaster, and it is believed, therefore, he should be reimbursed as proposed.

For the confidential information of the committee I transmit an extract from the report of the inspector in regard to this matter.

Faithfully, yours,

C. P. GRANDFIELD,  
*Acting Postmaster-General.*

Hon. J. M. MILLER,  
*Chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives.*